

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:



As your Administration continues to move forward to fill vacancies throughout the federal government, we encourage you to prioritize nominating a new member of the National Mediation Board (NMB). Quick nomination and confirmation of a new NMB member is urgently needed to help ensure the rights of workers in the airline and rail industries to organize and bargain collectively.

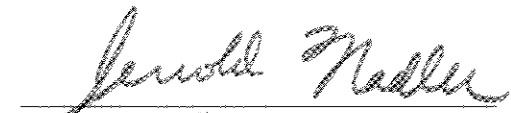
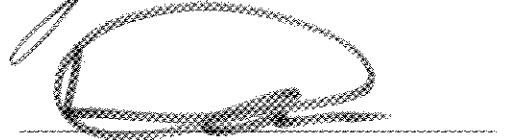
Over the last few years, the NMB has increasingly tilted in favor of employers over employees and of making organizing efforts and representation elections more difficult. Your administration has the opportunity to change the anti-employee orientation of the current board to a more fair and balanced one. One of the current members of the NMB has been a hold-over appointment since July of 2006. We urge you to take action immediately to name a new NMB member to ensure a balanced and equitable approach to mediation.

Time is especially of the essence as the NMB will soon oversee the full integration of Delta and Northwest Airlines. Northwest is a fully unionized company with several unions representing different classes of employees. Delta Airlines management is historically anti-union and only the pilots operate under a collective bargaining agreement. With the merger of Delta and Northwest, a representational election for various employee groups will take place. The election schedule, the voting environment, the tolerance of management anti-union campaigning and election rules are all governed by the NMB. The current NMB has repeatedly voted 2-1 to turn a blind eye to the aggressive efforts of Delta management to prevent employees from forming a collective bargaining agent.

We urge your administration to act quickly to appoint a fair-minded replacement to the National Mediation Board to ensure that the rights of all airline and rail employees are protected. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

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John Holt

Steve Kazenno

Loetta Sanchez

Ann

Bruce L. Linn

Sam Linn

Paul Otonlio

Frank Pallone Jr.

Pat A. Brady

Alfred J. Doyle

Gregory

Phil Hane

Alvin

Shelley Berkeley

Andrea

Carden B. Malone

Keith Ellison

Alan Kravson

Betty Sutton

Al Lerner

Greg Enos

Floyd Doss

Julia Quinn

Sam Connelley

Nadine J. Bonello

Hot Shb

Patrick F. Kennedy

Mick Doyle

Barney Frank

Tina Ryan

Grace J. Napolitano

Bobby L. Rush

Alfred Hastings

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